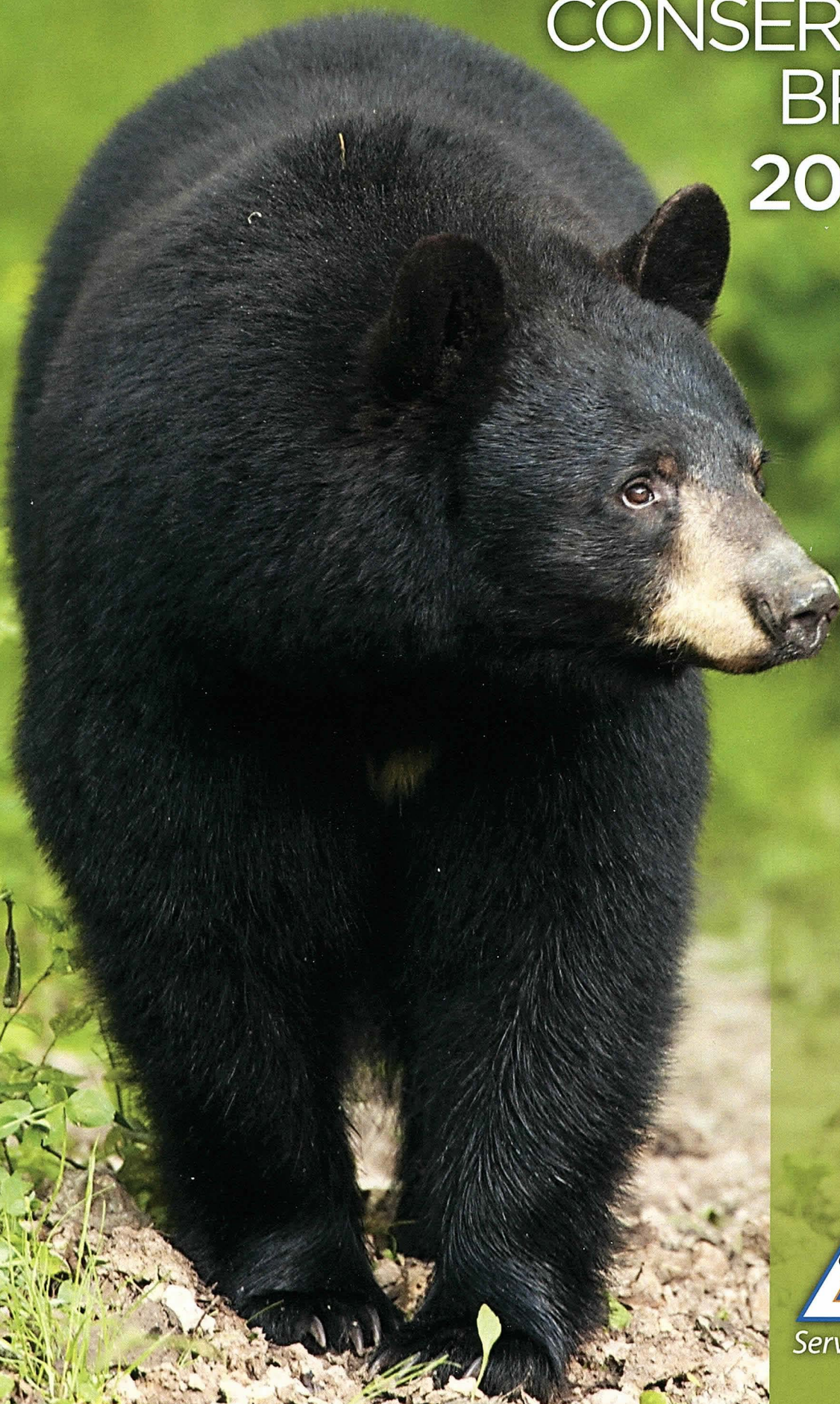


MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

# CONSERVATION BRIEFING 2015-2016



*Serving nature and you®*

# Missouri Department of Conservation

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Missouri Department of Conservation was conceived at the low point of U.S. conservation history. Unregulated hunting, fishing and trapping and the abuse of forests had decimated the state's natural resources. Missouri sportsmen devised a solution that was as simple as it was revolutionary. They drafted a constitutional amendment creating an apolitical conservation agency. Voters approved the amendment in 1936 by a margin of 71 to 29 percent, one of the largest margins by which any amendment to the state constitution has ever passed. It gave Missouri the world's first apolitical, science-based conservation agency with exclusive authority over forests, fish, and wildlife. The four members are appointed by the Governor and with the advice and consent of the Senate, not more than two of whom shall be from the same political party. Commissioners shall have knowledge of and interest in wildlife conservation, and serve a term of six years. The Conservation Commission serves statewide and is tasked with approving the *Wildlife Code* regulations, long-term strategic planning, budget planning and major expenditure decisions, and serve as the Department's policy makers.

## MISSION

To protect and manage the forest, fish, and wildlife resources of the state; to facilitate and provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about these resources.

## VISION

The Department shall be a forward looking agency . . . implementing solid core values ensuring integrity and trust . . . using adaptive learning and creative thinking . . . embracing technology and providing superior public service—to be the national leader in forest, fish, and wildlife management proactively advancing our mission through understanding natural resource and social landscapes.

## GOALS

- Your Missouri Department of Conservation works to ensure healthy and sustainable forest, fish, and wildlife resources throughout the state.
- Your Department of Conservation manages lands held in public trust and associated infrastructure to ensure continued benefit to citizens and to forest, fish, and wildlife.
- Your Department of Conservation provides opportunities for active citizen involvement in programs and services and conservation education in all parts of the state.
- Your Missouri Department of Conservation engages partners at the individual, community, county, state, and federal levels to enhance natural resources and effective delivery of conservation services.
- Your Department of Conservation works to ensure sound financial accountability and transparency in all areas of operation.



## Our Responsibilities

### 1 Manage Missouri's Forests, Fish, and Wildlife

- We work for and with Missourians to sustain healthy forests, fish, and wildlife.
- Conservation successes are many and include forests, streams, white-tailed deer, turkey, fish, and other plants and animals.
- We enforce the *Wildlife Code of Missouri* to provide current outdoor opportunities and to ensure future generations will have those same opportunities to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors.
- Research and citizen input informs decisions on the future of Missouri's forest, fish, and wildlife resources.



Missouri is a great place to enjoy the outdoors because:



## 2 Educate Missourians

- We help educate Missourians as they discover nature and improve their outdoor skills.
- Missouri has a rich conservation heritage of a quality outdoors that is being passed along to the next generation through free school materials.
- Hunter education, archery, fishing, shooting skills, and nature-viewing classes empower citizens to enjoy the outdoors.
- Citizens learn about the outdoors through an award-winning *Missouri Conservationist* magazine and children's *Xplor* magazine, along with Web, video, and print information.



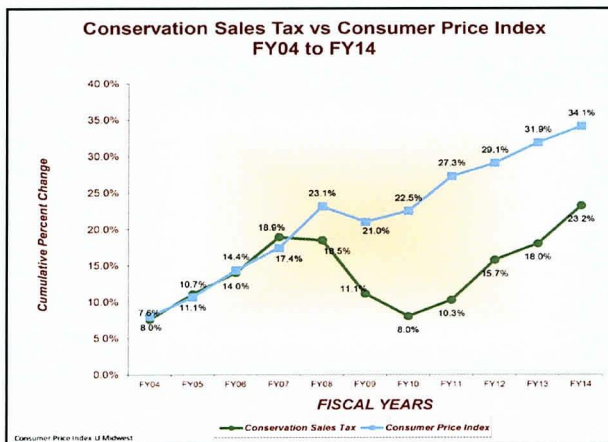
## 3 Help People Be Outdoors

- We provide close-to-home outdoor opportunities in urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout the state at conservation areas, boat ramps, public lakes, nature centers, interpretive centers, shooting ranges, and fish hatcheries.
- We partner with tens of thousands of landowners to help restore, improve, and sustain Missouri forests, waters, and wildlife habitats.

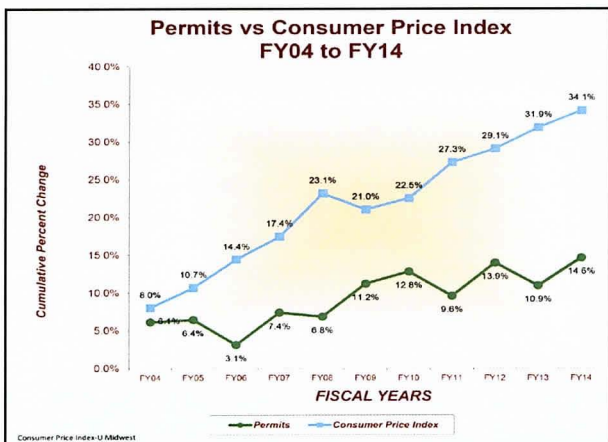


- Missourians care about conserving forests, fish, and wildlife.
- We work with you and for you to sustain healthy forests, fish, and wildlife.
- We help people discover nature.
- Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.
- Conservation pays by enriching our economy and quality of life.

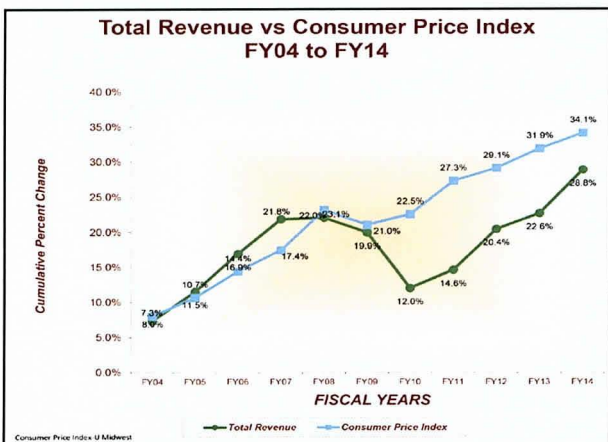
# Missouri Department of Conservation Revenues



FY04 to FY14, Conservation sales tax grew less than the rate of inflation by 10.9% or \$18.3 million.



FY04 to FY14, permit sales grew less than the rate of inflation by 19.5% or \$8.0 million.



FY04 to FY14, total Conservation revenues grew less than the rate of inflation by 5.3% or \$21.2 million.

## STATE BUDGET/STATE GENERAL REVENUE

- The Department's budget represents less than 1% of the entire state budget. No state general revenue is received.

## REVENUES

- Authorization requests from the Conservation Commission Fund are funded by anticipated revenue from the conservation sales tax (59.0%), hunting and fishing permits (18.2%), and federal management allotments (15.4%).
- The Commission cannot spend more than the combined revenues that make up the Conservation Commission Fund.
  - Actual receipts from the Department's two largest revenue sources have shown a steady increase over the last few years. Between FY08 and FY10 there were two consecutive years with negative growth and less than a 1% growth in FY11.
  - FY14 sales tax increase from FY13 was 4.4% or \$4,544,178
  - FY14 permit sales increase was 3.3% or \$1,061,321
  - FY14 total revenue increase was 5.1% or \$8,734,027
  - FY14 inflation (CPI) was 1.7%.
- FY15 total revenue growth is projected to be flat.

## FUND BALANCE AND COMMITMENTS

- Similar to other funds (e.g. general revenue), the Department's fund balance is not spent down to zero, but rather is managed for fiscal soundness.
- It takes approximately \$15 million to cover 30 days of operating expenses – to maintain staff and services to the public.
- It is not unusual for financial planners to recommend 3 months of operating reserve for businesses and organizations similar to the Missouri Department of Conservation.
- Today's economic uncertainty requires a conservative approach to managing fund balances.
- In September 2009, because of declining economic conditions and to maintain a sound financial condition, the Commission approved a new staffing plan which included placing full-time positions on hold and closing field offices, resulting in a net cost savings of over \$7.5 million. These proactive steps will keep the Department of Conservation in a sound financial condition into the future to fulfill the Department's constitutional obligation to Missouri citizens.
- The Department has initiated a review of all personal service benefits. Recommendations should work to provide a balance that creates additional choices for staff while providing financial/business benefits to the agency.

# What the Money Bought - Fiscal Year 2014

**County Assistance Payments—\$1,689,160** Paid county levee and drainage district taxes, forest cropland payments, in lieu of real estate taxes, and county aid road trust payments. Since 1980, paid more than \$19 million to Missouri counties in lieu of real estate taxes.

**Capital Improvements—\$14,638,649** Constructed, renovated, and repaired fish hatcheries, river accesses, wetlands, shooting ranges, nature centers, and facilities statewide; and acquired land.

**Fisheries—\$14,319,535** Managed sport fish populations, aquatic biodiversity, and aquatic habitats. Managed 1,025 areas for fishing, and assisted 5,556 landowners with stream and lake management. Stocked about 11.8 million fish in public waters.

**Forestry—\$18,854,153** Distributed about 3 million seedlings to 9,300 landowners, provided forestry assistance on more than 114,485 acres of private land and to more than 159 municipalities, managed 438,700 acres of public forest, monitored insect and disease threats, and facilitated development of the state's forest industry.

**Wildlife—\$21,345,445** Managed more than 163,000 acres of public land. Monitored federally endangered or threatened species. Identified priority geographies to focus investments. Aided guidance and funding for national and international bird conservation. Facilitated about 43,000 hunter trips through managed hunts.

**Outreach and Education—\$17,058,096** About a million people visited nature, education, and visitor centers, and about 170,000 used staffed shooting ranges. More than 550,000 subscribed to the *Missouri Conservationist*, more than 175,000 subscribed to *Xplor*, and there were about 7 million visits to MDC's public websites by more than 4.2 million users. Also provided more than \$250,000 in grants to schools and conservation curriculums for schools.

**Private Land Services—\$9,111,296** Provided 32,437 rural and urban landowner contacts; affected 244,600 acres through technical assistance to landowners; provided habitat management workshops to 31,946; assisted USDA with enrolling 1,685 contracts affecting 149,195 acres through the Wetland Reserve Program; and paid out \$1.71 to Missouri landowners in cost-share and incentives through the Department's Landowner Assistance Program.

**Protection—\$16,991,766** Provided wildlife law enforcement in every county as well as resource management, information, education, and public service. Conservation agents contacted approximately 657,000 people, and they coordinated the Share the Harvest program. Conservation agents, along with 998 volunteers donating more than 12,000 hours, conducted more than 1,100 hunter education classes, certifying more than 20,000 students.

**Resource Science—\$12,204,731** Monitored the status of Missouri's fish, forests, plants, and wildlife, recommended conservation actions, evaluated these actions, and reported the results. Tens of thousands of Missourians were contacted to determine their outdoor activities and opinions about conservation programs.

**Regional Public Contact Offices—\$2,274,969** Provided regional offices to directly serve Missourians.

**Administrative Services—\$26,074,163** Paid for hunting and fishing permit sale systems, fiscal services, purchasing, distribution center, and sign shop. Provided agency-wide postage and printing services, fleet management, vehicle and equipment maintenance, and other agency appropriations. Includes information management and technology that supported all computers, software, telephones, and other telecommunications systems.

**Human Resources—\$2,559,468** Provided the services to recruit, employ, and train employees.

**Design and Development—\$14,644,288** Provided engineering, architectural design, cultural resource review, surveying, and construction, as well as maintenance of conservation areas and facilities.

**Administration—\$2,867,796** Provided audits, legal counsel, strategic planning coordination, federal reimbursement administration, environmental policy development, public involvement, and river basin management.

## RECEIPTS

Conservation Sales Tax .....	\$107,076,440
Permit Sales .....	\$33,044,656
Federal Reimbursements .....	\$27,945,766
Sales and Rentals .....	\$10,283,532
Other Sources .....	\$2,803,488
Interest .....	\$384,769
Total Receipts .....	\$181,538,651

## DISBURSEMENTS

County Assistance Payments .....	0.97%
Capital Improvements .....	8.38%
Fisheries .....	8.20%
Forestry .....	10.80%
Wildlife .....	12.22%
Outreach and Education .....	9.77%
Private Land Services .....	5.22%
Protection .....	9.73%
Resource Science .....	6.99%
Regional Public Contact Offices .....	1.30%
Administrative Services .....	14.93%
Human Resources .....	1.46%
Design and Development .....	8.39%
Administration .....	1.64%

## MISSOURI STATE BUDGET

Health & Social Services .....	45.4%
Education .....	27.1%
Government Services .....	15.3%
Transportation .....	8.6%
Natural & Economic Resources .....	3.0%
Conservation .....	0.6%
MDC represents less than 1% of the total state budget	
Total State Budget .....	\$24,800,701,641

## We Listen to Missourians

The Missouri Department of Conservation believes that all Missouri citizens are important and we want to listen and act to earn their trust. Our job is to listen, understand, and personally deliver programs and services in a manner that benefits all Missourians and the forest, fish, and wildlife resources in Missouri.



- The Conservation Commission meets regularly and anyone may contact the Conservation Commission with comments or request to appear at a Commission meeting.
- The Conservation Department director may be personally contacted at Department headquarters in Jefferson City by telephone.
- The Department ombudsman works with citizens to resolve conflicts and answers a wide variety of questions by mail, Facebook, telephone, and email ([ombudsman@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:ombudsman@mdc.mo.gov)).
- The Department conducts a wide variety of statistically accountable mail surveys, telephone surveys, and focus groups to determine the opinions and attitudes of Missourians about conservation and the Department of Conservation. The Department has conducted attitude, opinion, satisfaction, and participations surveys for more than 30 years.
- The Department has eight regional service centers with staff available to assist Missourians with their conservation requests and needs.
- The Department's monthly magazine, free to Missourians who request it, includes a letter-to-the-editor section and an "Ask the Ombudsman" column.
- The Department maintains an extensive website ([mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov)) with conservation information, contact information, and online comment forms.
- The Department conducts frequent public forums to obtain interactive feedback from all Missourians at locations throughout the state.
- Department regulations are formed and discussed in a public setting that invites citizen participation.
- The Department seeks public input on proposed regulations through a variety of venues including the Department's regulation comment page at [mdc.mo.gov/node/24137](http://mdc.mo.gov/node/24137).
- The Department seeks public input on conservation area management plans at [mdc.mo.gov/areaplans](http://mdc.mo.gov/areaplans).

# What Missourians say about Conservation

The majority of Missourians feel the Department of Conservation is doing an excellent or good job of providing services to themselves (67 percent), their families (65 percent), the community (64 percent), and the state (68 percent). Most Missourians say they are either very familiar (21 percent) or somewhat familiar (62 percent) with the Missouri Department of Conservation.



- Most Missourians (95 percent) report they are interested in Missouri's fish, forests, and wildlife.
- Most Missourians (71 percent) agree that land should be acquired for fish, forest, and wildlife conservation.
- Most Missourians (89 percent) agree that "It is important for outdoor places to be protected even if you don't plan to visit the area."
- Most Missourians (76 percent) agree that the Department of Conservation should make an effort to restore animals that once lived or are currently very rare in the state.
- Most Missourians (77 percent) agree that the Department of Conservation should help private landowners who want to restore native communities of plants and animals.
- More than three-quarters (77 percent) agree that the Department "should assist communities that want to include trees and green spaces in housing, business, and shopping developments."
- Most Missourians (84 percent) approve of hunting for food, yet only 28 percent approve of hunting for an exceptional animal.
- Most Missourians (88 percent) approve of cutting down trees to improve forest health and condition, yet only 43 percent approve of cutting down trees to make lumber, furniture, or other wood products.
- The majority of Missourians (52 percent) agree that trapping is okay as long as it is regulated.
- Time is mentioned as the biggest obstacle to the enjoyment of outdoor activities by Missourians.
- A majority of Missourians (65 percent) agree that the Department of Conservation is doing a good job of enforcing fish and wildlife laws.
- Most Missourians (76 percent) agree that the Missouri Department of Conservation "is a name I can trust."

Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation, 2013.

# The Economics of Conservation in Missouri

**T**he amount of state sales tax revenue generated from forest, fish, and wildlife recreation spending is about the same amount of sales tax revenue received by the Department of Conservation from the one-eighth of one percent Conservation Sales Tax — CONSERVATION PAYS ITS WAY IN MISSOURI.



- In Missouri, the total economic impact of fish and wildlife recreation and the forest products industry is more than \$12 billion dollars annually.
- Since 1980, the Department has paid over \$19 million dollars to Missouri counties in lieu of taxes. In fiscal year 2014, more than \$1.6 million was paid to Missouri counties for forest cropland payments, levee and drainage district payments, in-lieu-of-property-tax payments, and county aid road trust payments.
- The forestry and wood products industry in Missouri has more than \$8 billion dollars of impact and supports 42,538 jobs.
- Missourians and non-residents spend more than \$2.6 billion dollars annually related to fish and wildlife recreation. These expenditures generate \$4.7 billion dollars annually in economic impacts in Missouri.
- The annual expenditures related to fish and wildlife recreation support 56,910 jobs in Missouri.
- Forest, fish, and wildlife expenditures generate more than \$507 million dollars annually in state and local tax revenue.
- In Missouri, 2.5 million residents and nonresidents, age 16 years and older, participate in fishing, hunting, or wildlife-related recreation each year.
- Collectively, resident anglers spend 13.3 million days afield, resident hunters 9.2 million, and resident wildlife-watchers 7.8 million days in away-from-home activities, in Missouri. Nonresident anglers add 1.6 million days and nonresident hunters 932,000 days.
- Nonresident expenditures for fishing and hunting in Missouri exceed \$346 million each year. Each nonresident angler and hunter spends an average of \$547 dollars each year in Missouri.
- Deer hunters in Missouri, age 16 years and older, spend \$615 million each year.
- Deer hunting in Missouri generates more than \$1 billion dollars of business activity annually. This results in \$95 million in state and local tax revenue each year.
- Deer hunting expenditures annually support more than 13,000 jobs in Missouri.

Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

# Missouri Hunting and Fishing

Hunters	576,000
Anglers	1 million
Total Expenditures	\$1.7 billion
Total Jobs Supported	38,185
Earnings from Expenditures	\$1.2 billion
State and Local Tax Revenue	\$274 million
Total Business-Generated Revenue	\$3 billion



## STATE TAX REVENUE INFORMATION

Hunters and anglers in Missouri generate \$274 million annually in state and local taxes.

## JOB

Hunters and anglers support 45,939 jobs each year.

## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

- More Missourians hunt or fish than the number who attend St. Louis Rams or Kansas City Chiefs games.
- One of every four Missouri residents hunts or fishes.
- Annual spending by hunters and anglers is more than the value of sales for cattle production in Missouri.

- The amount of sales tax revenue generated by forest, fish, and wildlife recreation is more than the amount of sales tax received by the Department of Conservation from the one-eighth of one percent sales tax — in other words, conservation pays its way in Missouri.

Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation.

CONSERVATION PAYS ITS WAY IN MISSOURI

# Missouri Forestry and Wood Products

Total Forested Acres	14 million
Privately Owned Acres	83 percent
Publicly Owned Acres	15 percent
Wood-Using Industry Dollars	\$8 billion
Total Jobs Supported	42,538
Wood-Using Industry Labor Income	\$1.9 billion



## STATE TAX REVENUE INFORMATION

Forestry and the wood-using industries in Missouri generate \$78 million each year in state sales tax.

## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

- Each year, about three million tree seedlings are produced in the state nursery.
- More than one million acres of forests have been added to Missouri's landscape in the last 30 years.
- Forests in Missouri are increasing faster than they are being harvested.
- Most of the forests in Missouri are privately owned.

## JOB

Wood industry firms and activities support more than 42,000 jobs each year.

- Forests are important to Missourians who enjoy outdoor recreation such as camping, sightseeing, bird watching, canoeing, photographing nature, hunting, or fishing. Many Department of Conservation areas have campsites or are open for primitive camping.
- Forests in Missouri are essential for healthy streams, clean water, wildlife habitat, and environmental stability.

Information from the Missouri Department of Conservation.

# Missouri Wildlife Recreation

Wildlife Watchers	1.7 million
Total Expenditures	\$940 million
Total Jobs Supported	18,725
Earnings from Expenditures	\$692 million
State and Local Tax Revenue	153 million
Total Business-Generated Revenue	\$1.7 billion



## STATE TAX REVENUE INFORMATION

Wildlife watchers in Missouri generate \$153 million annually in state and local taxes.

## JOB

Wildlife watching activities in Missouri support 18,725 jobs each year.

## TAKE A CLOSER LOOK

- In Missouri, adults involved in wildlife watching would fill Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City more than 22 times.
- Missourians are outdoor oriented — each year they spend 7.8 million days in wildlife watching activities away from their home. More than 1.5 million enjoy observing, feeding, and photographing wildlife near their homes.

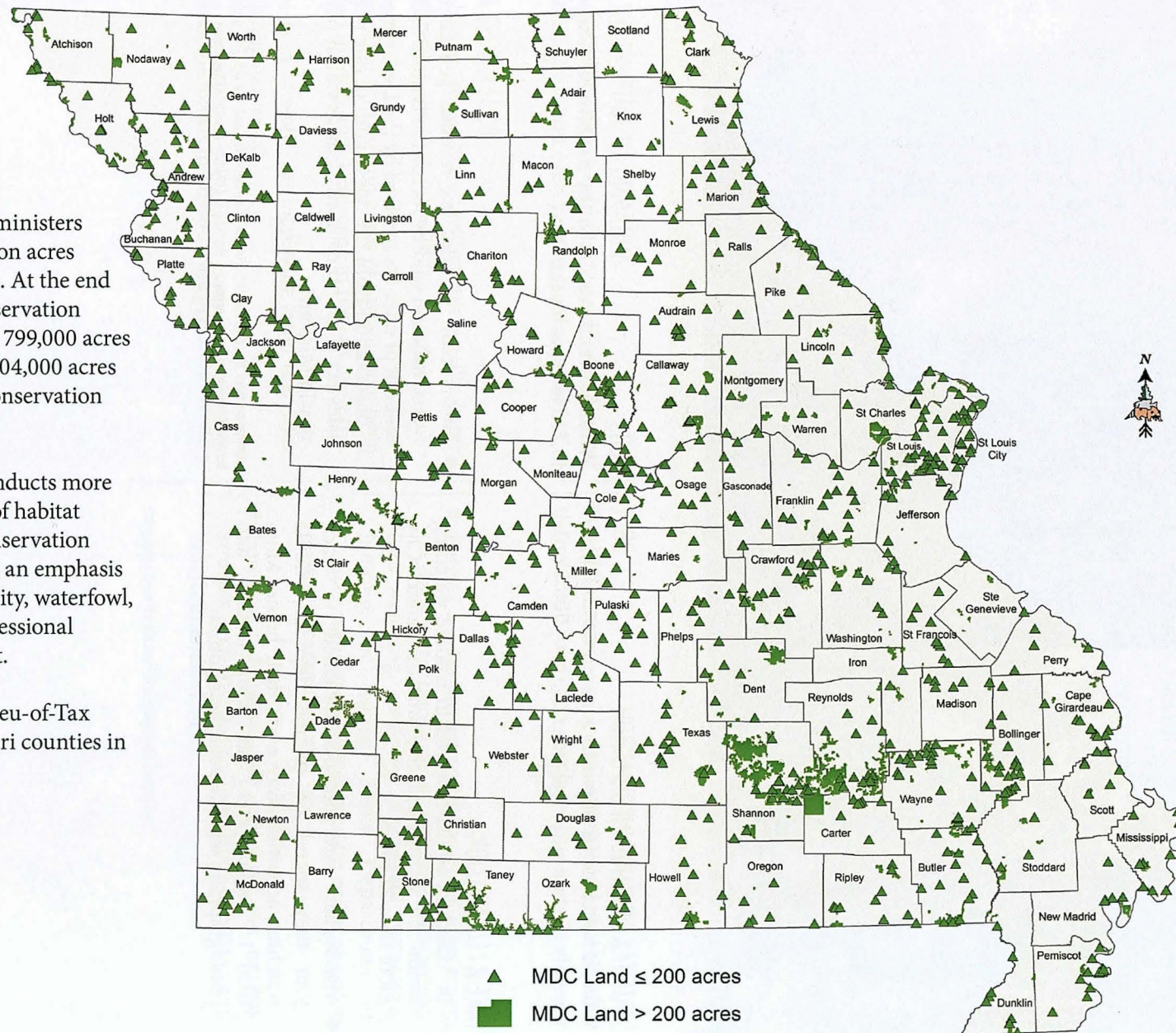
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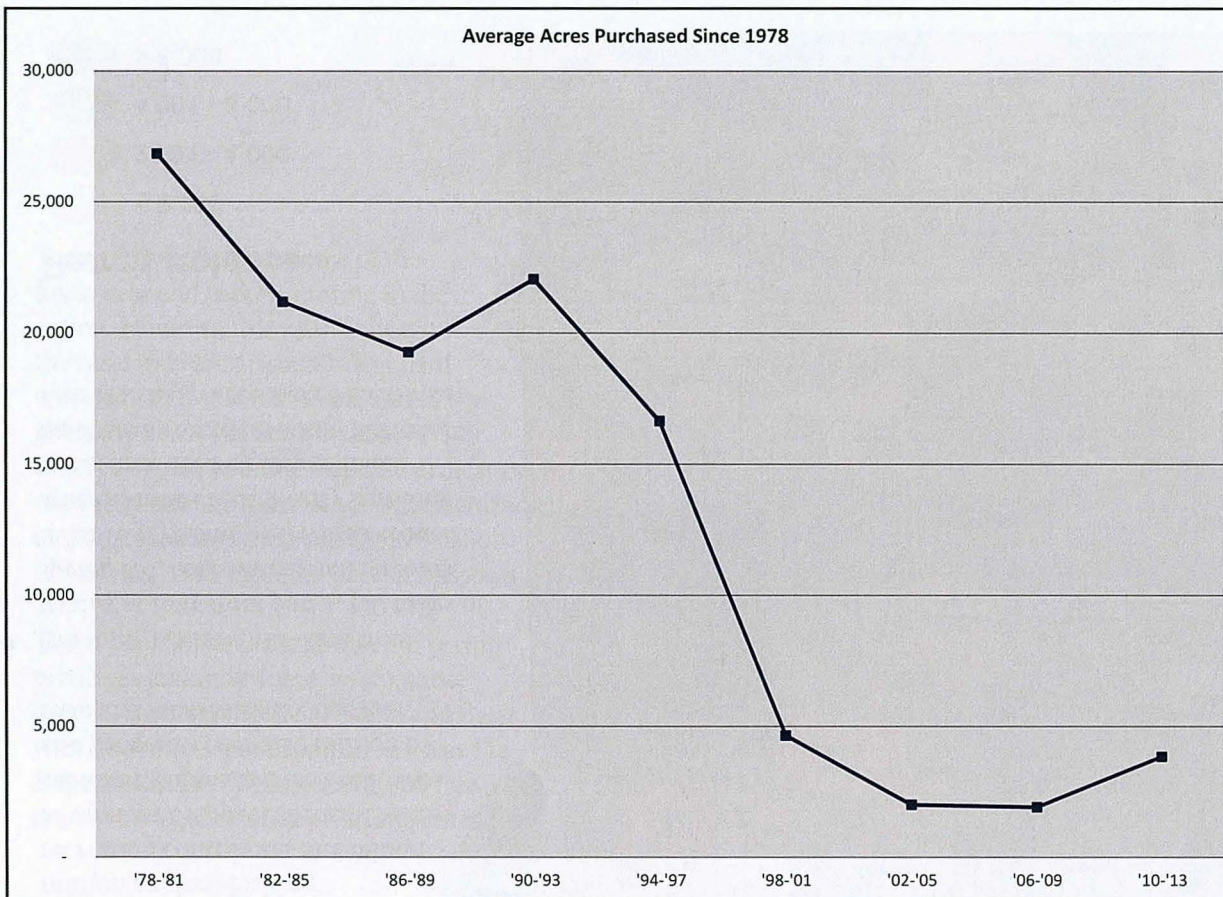
CONSERVATION PAYS ITS WAY IN MISSOURI

# Missouri Department of Conservation Management Areas

- The Department administers more than one million acres throughout the state. At the end of FY 2014, the Conservation Commission owned 799,000 acres and managed over 204,000 acres leased from other conservation partners.
- The Department conducts more than 200,000 acres of habitat management on conservation areas each year with an emphasis on natural community, waterfowl, dove, and early successional habitat management.
- See page 17 for In-Lieu-of-Tax payments to Missouri counties in FY2014.



# Missouri Department of Conservation Management Areas



## TOTAL AMOUNT OF PURCHASED ACRES PER FISCAL YEAR FROM FY03 THROUGH FY14:

Fiscal Year 2014 Total - 4,446.27 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2012 Total - 373.85 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2010 Total - 160.30 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2008 Total - 1,379.05 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2006 Total - 2,541.81 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2004 Total - 2,895.97 Acres

Fiscal Year 2013 Total - 2,457.12 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2011 Total - 332.51 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2009 Total - 2,357.78 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2007 Total - 1,310.01 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2005 Total - 2,384.45 Acres  
 Fiscal Year 2003 Total - 256.24 Acres

The Department's land acquisition focus is on areas that represent reasonable additions to existing holdings, contribute to public access of rivers and streams, or contain an important habitat type deserving of protection. Many opportunities are presented to the Department, but most are turned down—in FY13 approximately 11,280 acres were offered for sale to the Department by citizens delivering land offer information forms to the agency for consideration.

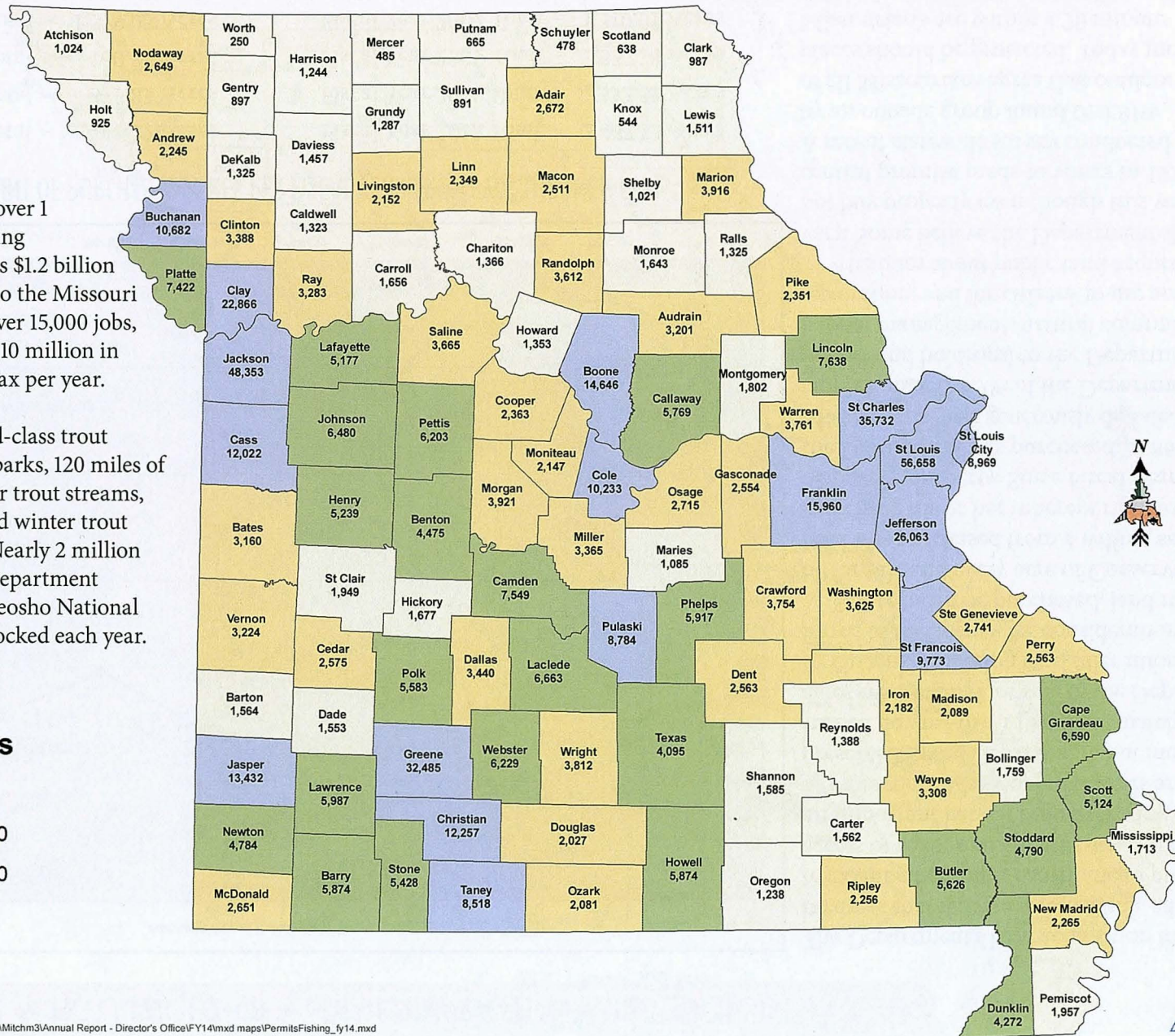
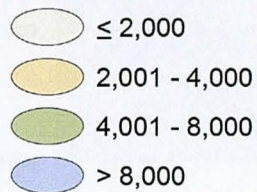
Before it can be purchased, land must be for sale and every acre of Conservation land was purchased from a willing seller exercising his or her inherent right to dispose of property. Since Fiscal Year 2003, the Department has purchased 20,868 acres. Missourians have generously donated land (approximately 6.7% of the Department's public land holdings) to the Department for habitat management, natural community restoration, and for citizens to use and enjoy.

Attitudes about public land acquisition vary. Some believe the Department should not buy property even though this was a central promise made to voters in 1976. A recent statewide survey conducted by an outside group found that 91% of all Missourians agree that outdoor places should be protected. Today most Missourians are within a 30 minute drive of a conservation area. Currently the Department holds in public trust approximately 1.7% of Missouri's acres.

# Number of Fishing Permits Purchased by County for Permit Year 2013

- Missouri is home to over 1 million anglers. Fishing recreation contributes \$1.2 billion of economic impact to the Missouri economy, supports over 15,000 jobs, and generates over \$110 million in state and local sales tax per year.
- Missouri offers world-class trout fishing at four trout parks, 120 miles of spring-fed, cold-water trout streams, Lake Taneycomo, and winter trout areas in nine cities. Nearly 2 million trout, produced by Department hatcheries and the Neosho National Fish Hatchery, are stocked each year.

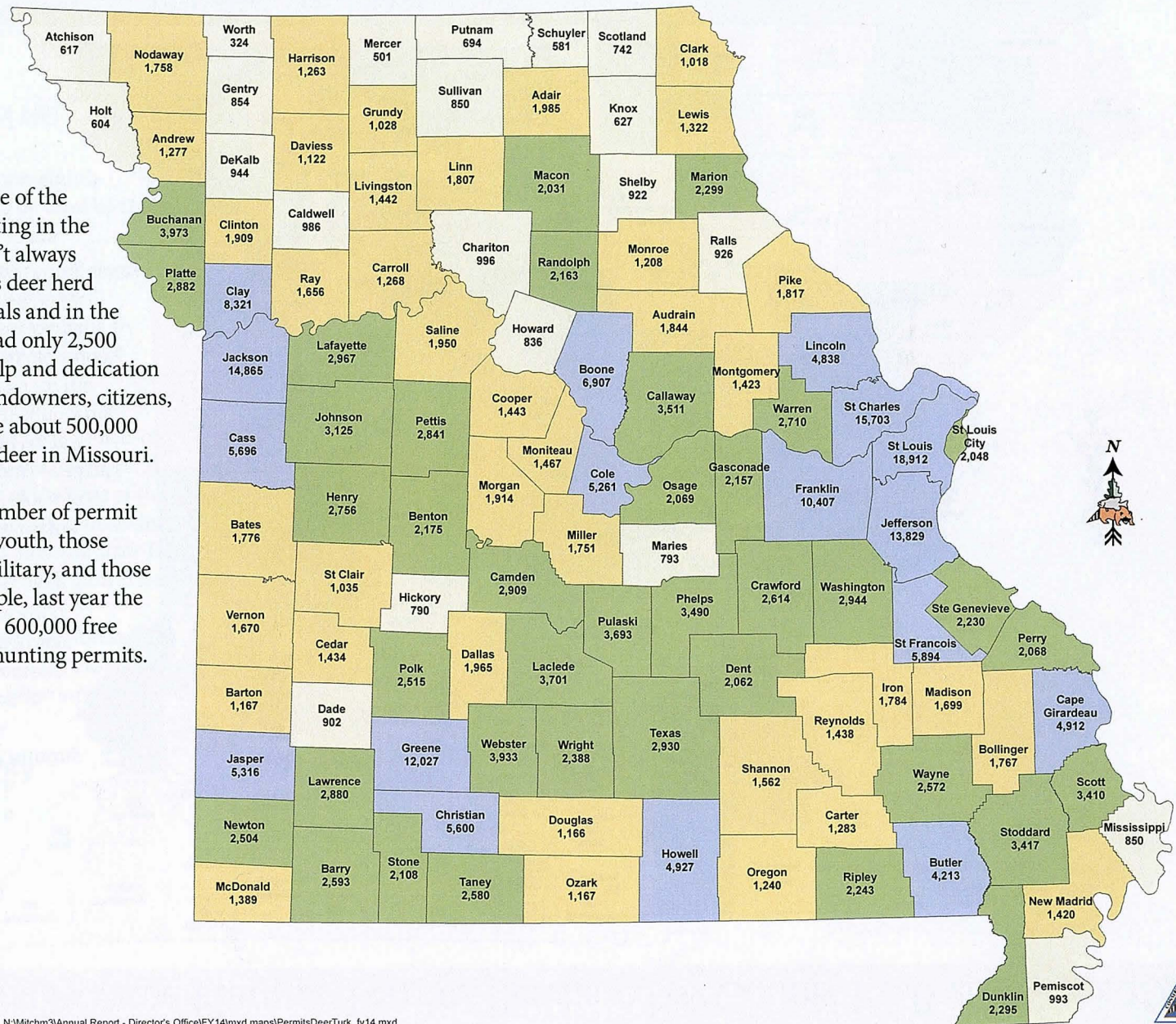
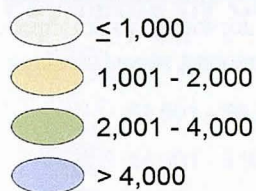
## Permit Holders



# Number of Deer and Turkey Permits Purchased by County for Permit Year 2013

- Today, Missouri offers some of the finest deer and turkey hunting in the nation. However, this wasn't always the case. In 1925 Missouri's deer herd was estimated at 500 animals and in the 1950s the Show-Me State had only 2,500 turkeys. Today, with the help and dedication of conservation-minded landowners, citizens, and organizations there are about 500,000 turkeys and over 1 million deer in Missouri.
- The *Wildlife Code* has a number of permit privileges for landowners, youth, those over 65, members of the military, and those with disabilities. For example, last year the Department provided over 600,000 free landowner deer or turkey hunting permits.

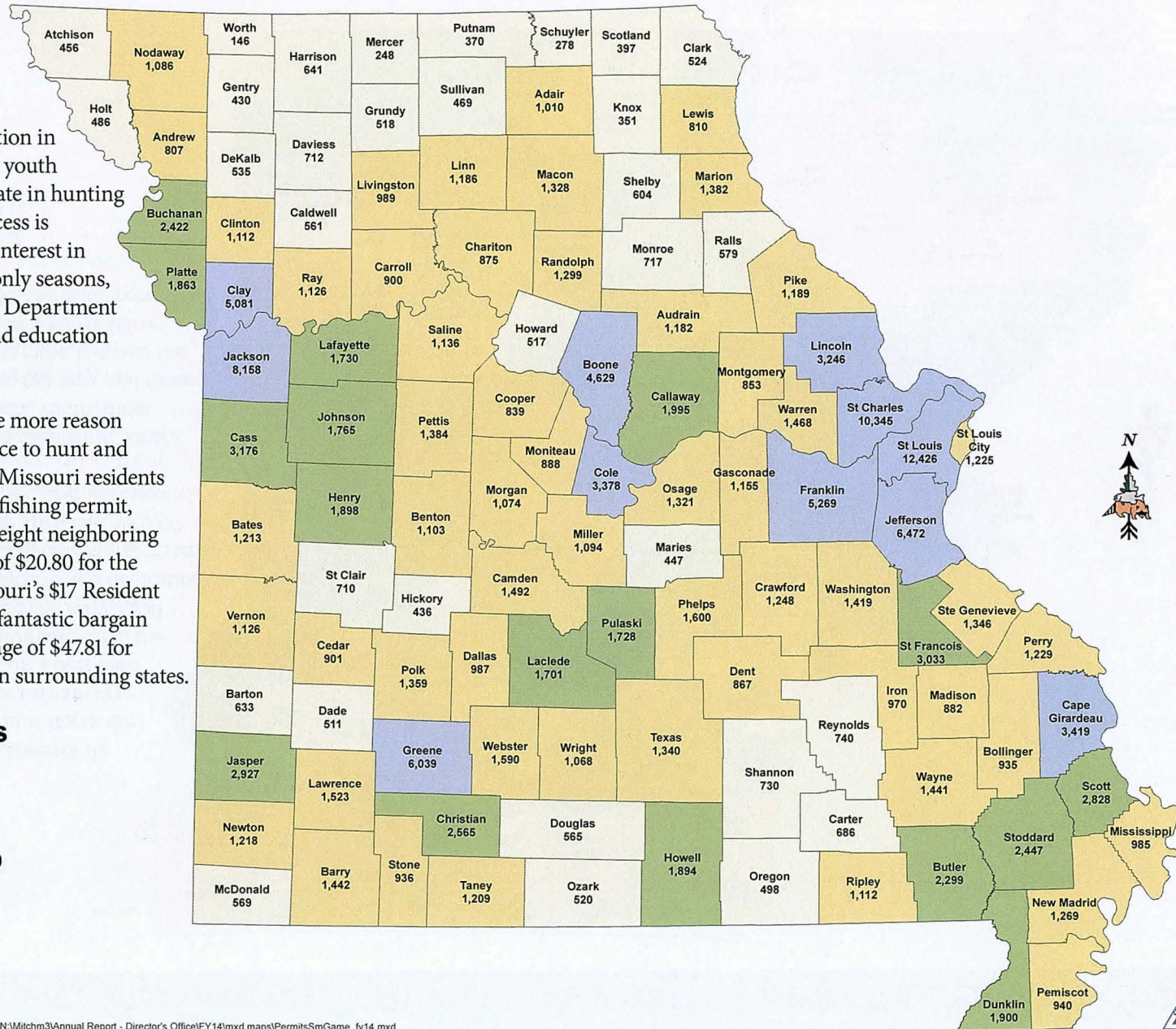
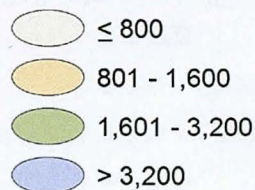
## Permit Holders



# Number of Small-Game Hunting Permits Purchased by County for Permit Year 2013

- Missouri leads the nation in reducing obstacles for youth and adults to participate in hunting and fishing. This success is largely due to citizen interest in conservation, youth-only seasons, low-cost permits, and Department sponsored hunting and education programs.
- Low permit cost is one more reason Missouri is a great place to hunt and fish. For comparison, Missouri residents pay \$12 for an annual fishing permit, while residents in the eight neighboring states pay an average of \$20.80 for the same privileges. Missouri's \$17 Resident Any-Deer Permit is a fantastic bargain compared to the average of \$47.81 for equivalent privileges in surrounding states.

## Permit Holders



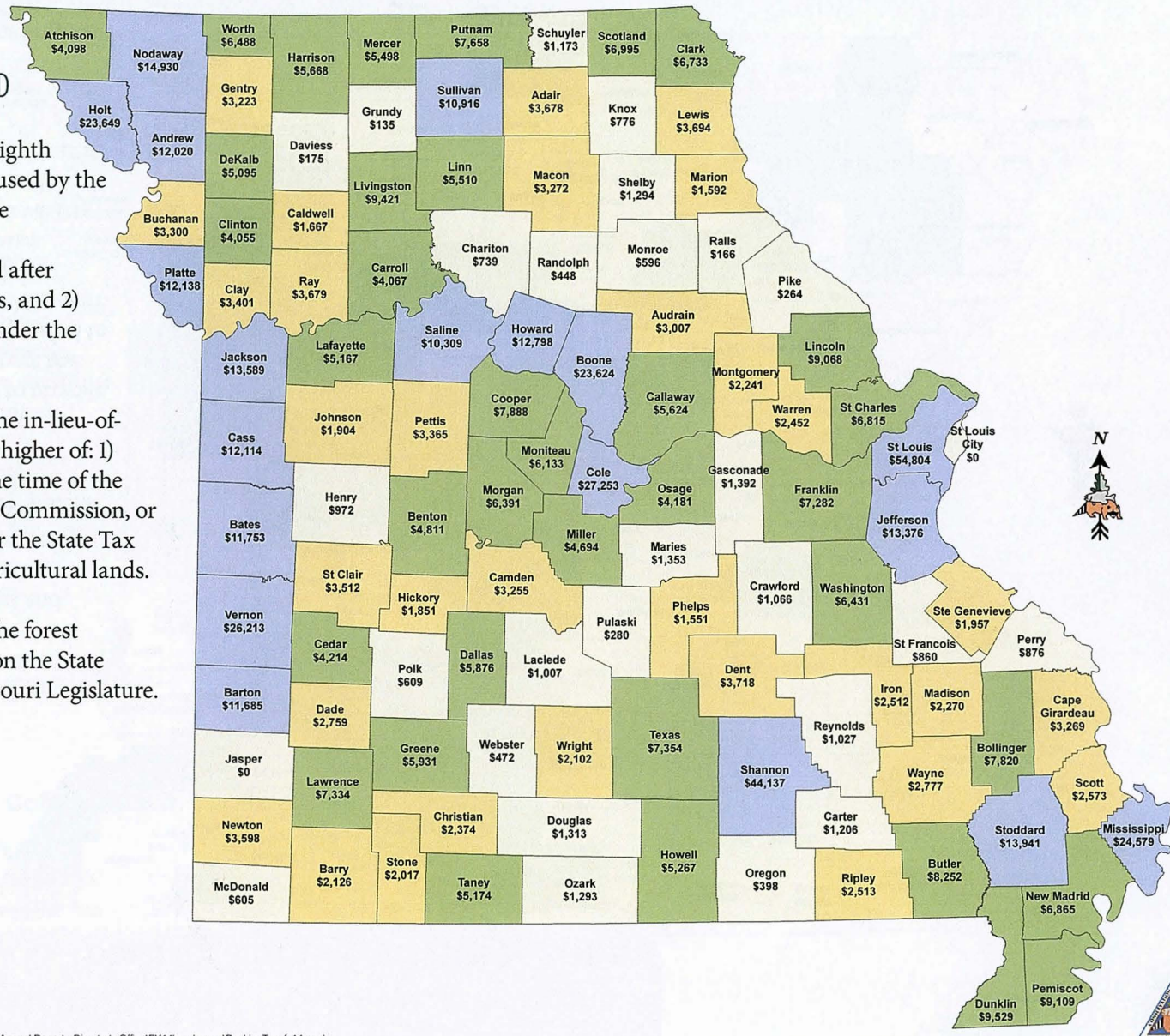
# Total Payments to Counties for In-Lieu-of-Tax Payments, Forest Cropland Payments and Payments To Levee and Drainage Districts from the Conservation Sales Tax Paid in 2014

## IN-LIEU-TAX AND FOREST CROPLAND

In 1980 the voters of Missouri authorized revenue from the one-eighth of one percent state sales tax to be used by the Conservation Commission to make payments to counties for: 1) the unimproved value of land acquired after July 1, 1977, in lieu of property taxes, and 2) land classified as forest cropland under the State Forestry Law.

- County payments made under the in-lieu-of-tax program are based upon the higher of: 1) taxes paid on a tract of land at the time of the acquisition by the Conservation Commission, or 2) a calculated rate modeled after the State Tax Commission rule for valuing agricultural lands.
- County payments made under the forest cropland program are based upon the State Forestry Law passed by the Missouri Legislature.

## Payments by County



# County Aid Road Trust (CART) Program

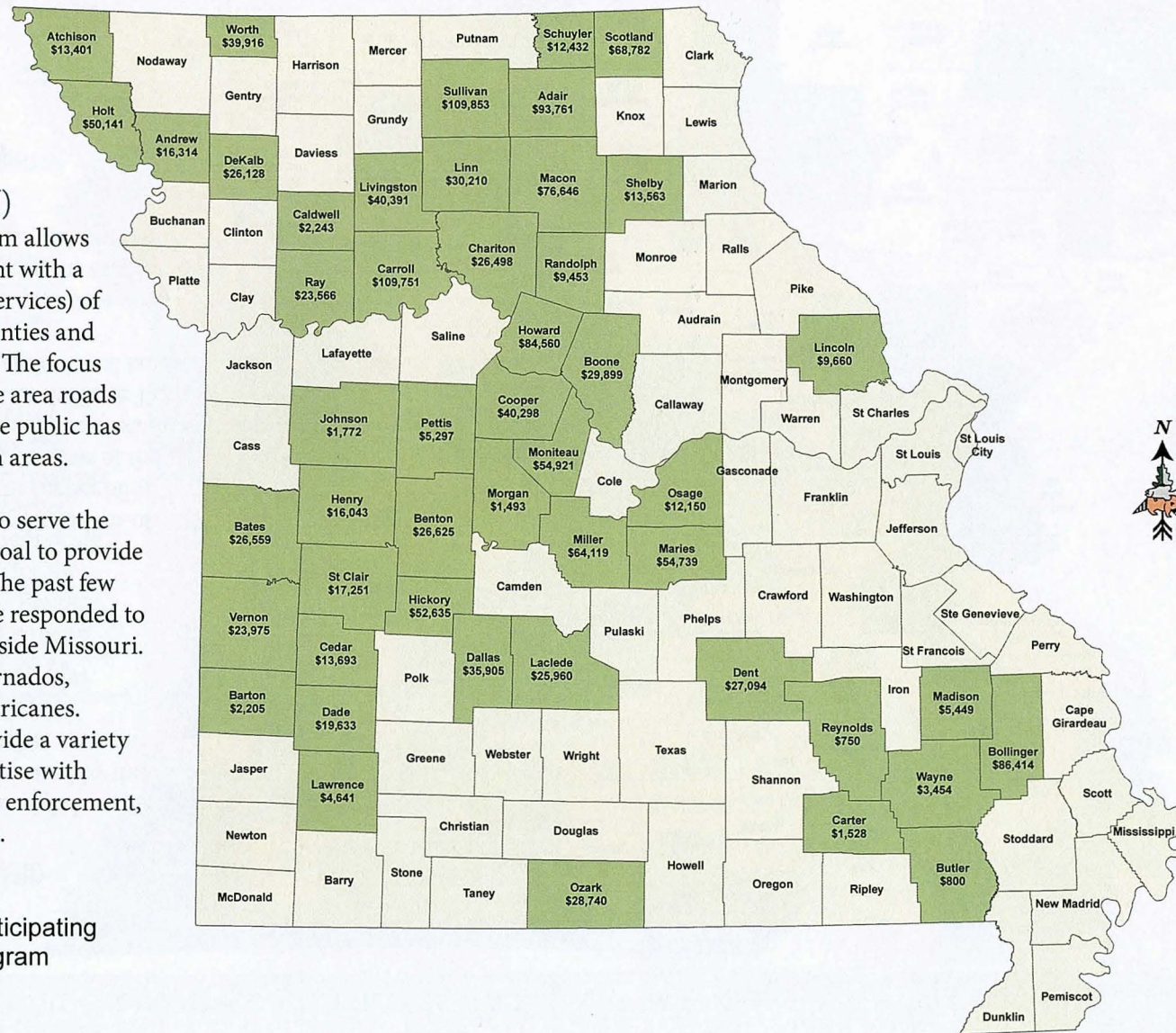
## County Participation Totals for Fiscal Years 2012–2014

### COUNTY AID ROAD TRUST (CART)

Established in 1983, this program allows for cost share (usually 50 percent with a county's match being in-kind services) of roadway maintenance with counties and other neighboring landowners. The focus of the program is to help ensure area roads are properly maintained and the public has adequate access to conservation areas.

- The Department's promise to serve the public extends beyond our goal to provide exceptional public service. The past few years, Department staff have responded to catastrophes within and outside Missouri. Examples include floods, tornados, ice storms, wildfire, and hurricanes. Department employees provide a variety of services using their expertise with heavy equipment, boats, law enforcement, chainsaws, and water rescue.

 Counties Participating in CART Program



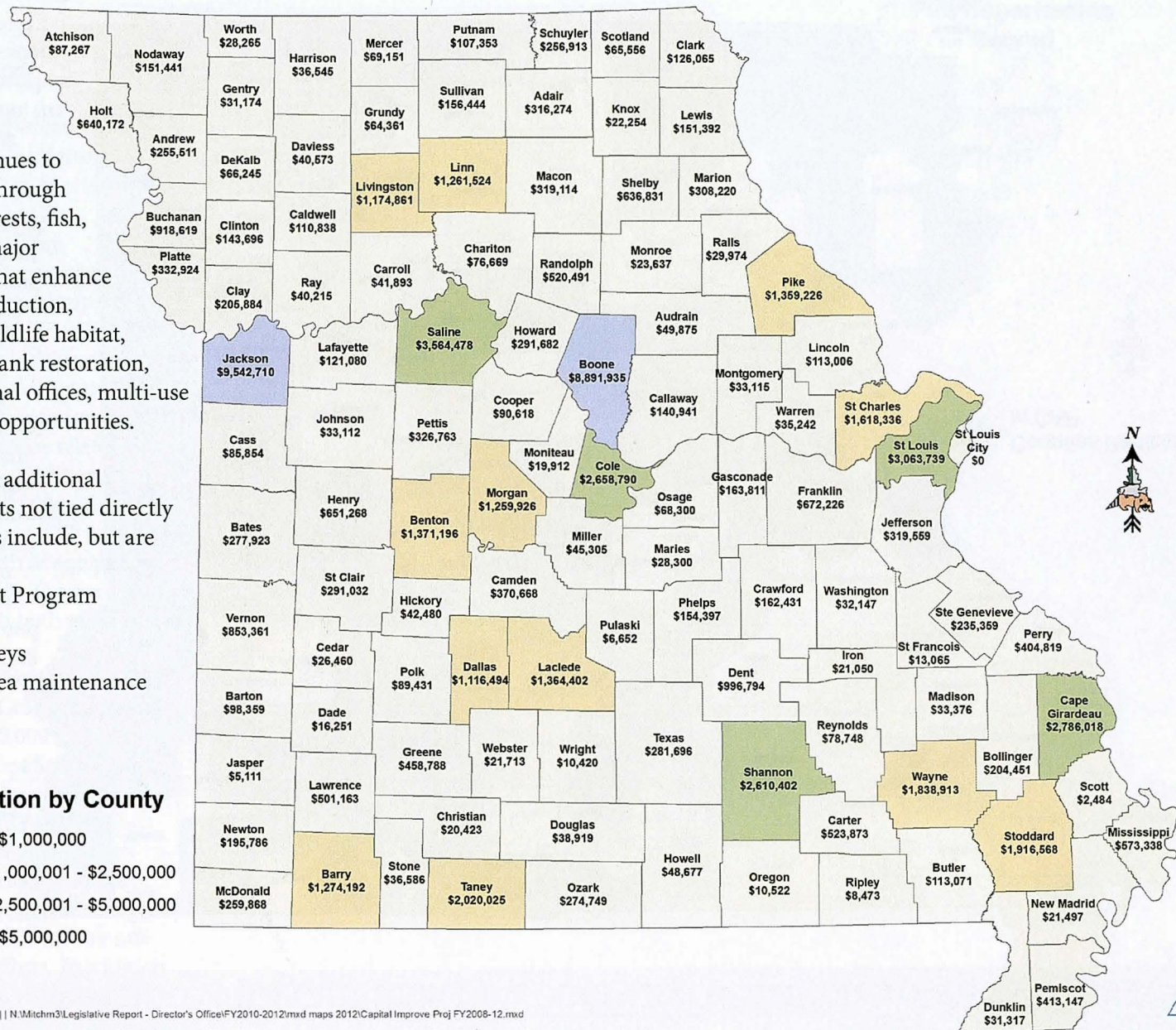
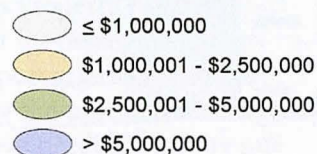
# Funds Allocated to Capital Improvement Projects by County for Fiscal Years 2012–2014

- The Department continues to connect with citizens through nature and improve forests, fish, and wildlife through major construction projects that enhance public service, fish production, wetland restoration, wildlife habitat, fishing access, streambank restoration, shooting ranges, regional offices, multi-use trails, and educational opportunities.

Totals do NOT include an additional \$3,779,738 spent on projects not tied directly to a county. These projects include, but are not limited to:

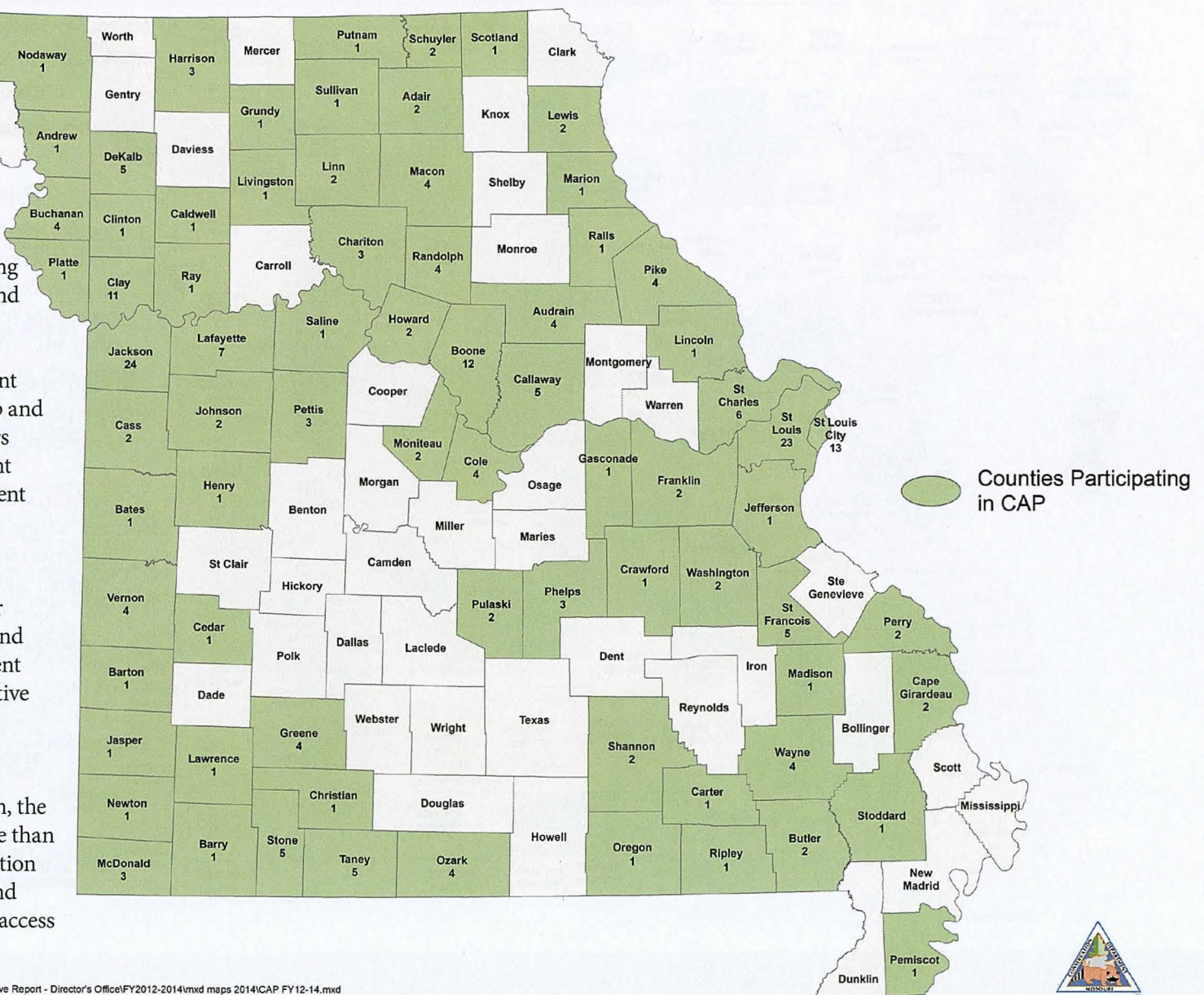
- County Road Aid Trust Program
- Surveys and testing
- Cultural resource surveys
- Minor conservation area maintenance

## Allocation by County



# Community Assistance Program (CAP) County Participation Totals as of July 2014

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM provides public fishing access to rivers, streams, and lakes by working with cities, counties, state, and federal agencies, businesses, foundations, and schools to provide fisheries management and to cooperatively develop and maintain facilities for anglers and boaters. The Department provides fisheries management at existing lakes and ponds, and cooperatively develops and maintains facilities (i.e., boat ramps, parking lots) for anglers and boaters at lake and stream areas. The Department has 118 partners for cooperative management of 166 lakes, 43 stream accesses, four lake accesses, and 10 aquatic education ponds. In addition, the Department maintains more than 300 boat ramps on conservation areas that provide anglers and boaters a convenient way to access Missouri streams and lakes.

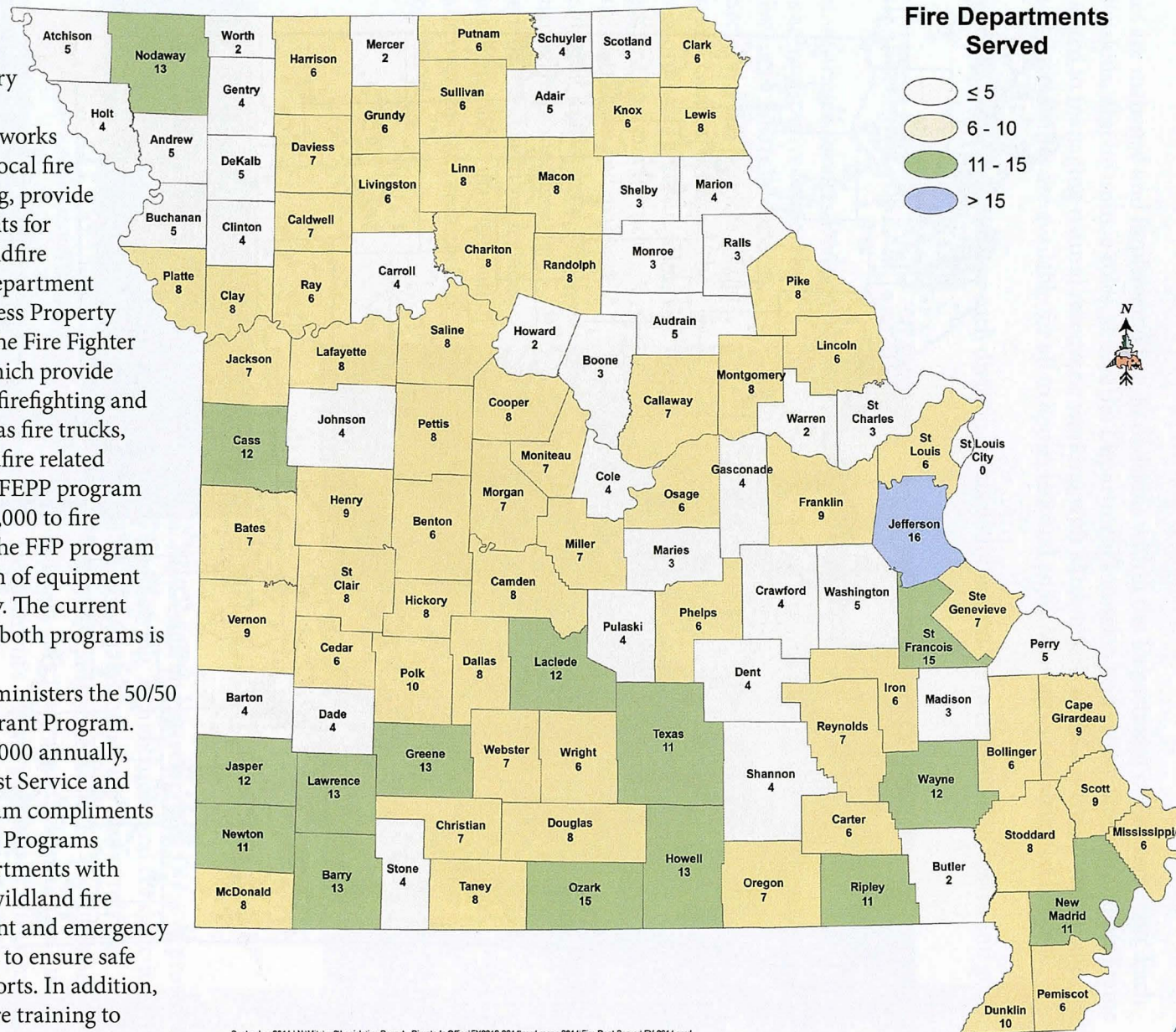


# Fire Departments Served by County for Fiscal Year 2014

## RURAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

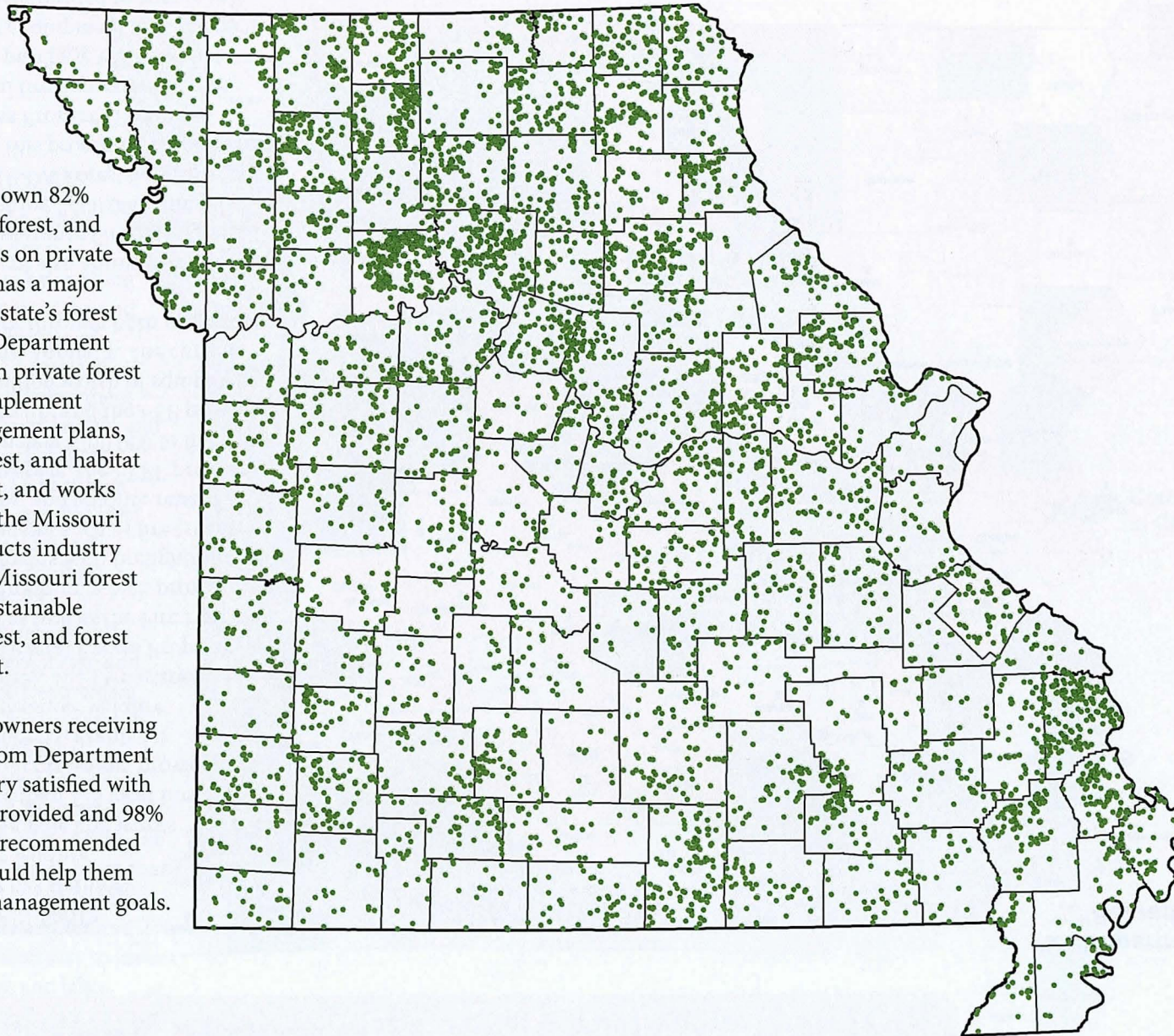
The Department has statutory responsibility for wildfire suppression in the state and works closely with more than 775 local fire departments to offer training, provide federal excess property, grants for equipment, and promote wildfire prevention activities. The Department administers the Federal Excess Property Program (FEPP) as well as the Fire Fighter Property (FFP) Program, which provide rural fire departments with firefighting and emergency equipment such as fire trucks, generators, pumps, and wildfire related equipment. On average, the FEPP program delivers approximately \$700,000 to fire departments annually and the FFP program delivers \$10-12 million worth of equipment to fire departments annually. The current assigned inventory through both programs is over \$80 million.

The Department also administers the 50/50 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program. With funds averaging \$400,000 annually, provided by the USDA Forest Service and the Department, this program compliments the Federal Excess Property Programs by providing local fire departments with grant funding to purchase wildland fire suppression/safety equipment and emergency response equipment needed to ensure safe and effective firefighting efforts. In addition, the Department provides fire training to approximately 300 rural fire departments and other agency staff.



## MDC Private Land Services Site Visits July 2012–June 2014

- Landowners own 82% of the state's forest, and what happens on private forest lands has a major effect on the state's forest health. The Department partners with private forest owners to implement forest management plans, timber harvest, and habitat management, and works closely with the Missouri forests products industry to promote Missouri forest products, sustainable timber harvest, and forest management.
- 86% of landowners receiving assistance from Department staff were very satisfied with the service provided and 98% believed the recommended practices would help them meet their management goals.



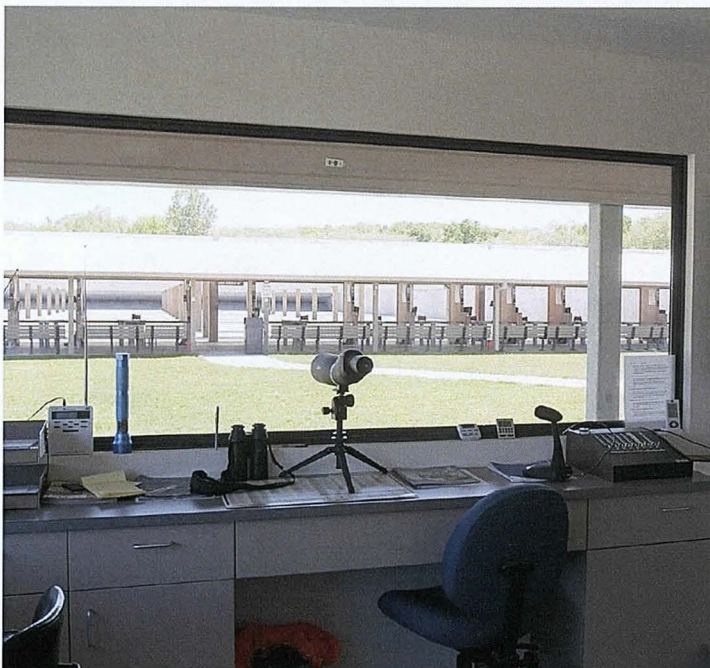
# Missouri Department of Conservation Divisional Summaries

Activities are managed and implemented by 10 divisions within the Department of Conservation. Each of the divisions, despite unique roles, shares the Department's mission and vision. Staffing and programs are dedicated to managing natural resources, working with Missourians to deliver conservation, and ensuring opportunities are available for all to appreciate and enjoy Missouri's conservation heritage.

The summaries below describe how each division assists with the agency's overall mission, vision and goals.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

The Administrative Services Division provides administrative support by way of five units: Financial Services, Permit Services, Fleet Services, Flight Services, and General Services. The Division coordinates and administers all budget, revenue, and finance functions; distributes and manages hunting, fishing, commercial, and landowner permits; manages the equipment fleet and aviation services; maintains the publications distribution center; and oversees the products and media loan service.



## DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Design and Development Division provides engineering, architectural, and construction services that enhance the Department's resource management efforts. The Division's primary functions are to help maintain the Department's diverse portfolio of infrastructure assets and manage the capital improvements program. Typical projects include wetlands, hatcheries, reservoirs, nature centers, buildings, river and lake accesses, stream improvements, shooting ranges, and engineering studies. Related services include building and ground maintenance, surveying, construction management, and environmental and cultural compliance permitting for construction projects and area development projects.



## FISHERIES DIVISION

Fisheries Division manages four warm-water fish hatcheries (for rearing the fish needed to stock public waters and waters used for special fishing events and aquatic resource education) and five cold-water fish hatcheries (for rearing trout needed to stock public waters and trout parks); administers the Stream Team program; provides fisheries management of public impoundments, rivers and streams; offers technical guidance in stream and lake management to private landowners and other public agencies; oversees the acquisition and development of public fishing and boat access areas; administers community, agency, and partnership agreements.

Participates in recovery plans of threatened or endangered aquatic species; and educates and informs the public about aquatic resources through technical and popular written materials, electronic media, presentations to groups, workshops, interviews to journalists, and personal contacts.

## FORESTRY DIVISION

The Forestry Division ensures the health and sustainability of Missouri's urban and rural forest resource and addresses what people need from that resource. Forestry staff provides technical advice and assistance that includes monitoring of forest health, suppressing wildfire, tree planting recommendations, advice, and recommendations for forest improvement, forest inventory and analysis, forest products marketing and utilization, and overall management of the total forest-related resources for its many benefits. Technical assistance is also provided on the care of trees in our cities and towns. The Forestry Division maintains the Department's seedling nursery.



## HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

The Human Resources Division provides a full range of services that help the Department attract and retain a diversified, dynamic workforce. Staff assist with recruitment and selection activities; administer salary and benefit programs; oversee a comprehensive group life, medical, accidental death and dismemberment, and dependent life insurance program; maintain official employee documents and records; and manage a safety program (including workers' compensation).



Equally important to the Department are other Human Resource Division activities. These include monitoring the Department's compliance with employment practices relating to affirmative action, ADA and drug testing; providing employee training and development programs; administering employee assistance and wellness activities; and facilitating the disciplinary and grievance process.

## OUTREACH AND EDUCATION DIVISION

Outreach and Education Division helps Missourians of all ages enjoy and understand the value of our plant and animal resources and how to keep them thriving for years to come. Outreach and Education staff provide hands-on connections with the outdoors through skills classes, educational units, nature center programs, and special events. In addition, they keep people up-to date about where they can hunt, fish, trap, hike, watch birds, and more so they can make their own conservation connections throughout Missouri.



Outreach and Education staff are involved in outreach programs, conservation education, and outdoor skills. Outreach programs staff produce a variety of information tools, including the Department website, *Missouri Conservationist* magazine, *Xplor* magazine for kids, books, brochures, videos and DVDs, exhibits, news, nature shops, and more. Conservation education staff provide hands-on, place-based units to educators through the Discover Nature Schools program. Nature center staff help Missourians learn more about forest, fish, and wildlife resources and ways to put conservation into practice. Outdoor skills staff work

through schools and staffed shooting ranges to provide hunter education and shooting sports opportunities for all Missourians, to provide school-based skills training, and to provide programs and clinics for youth and adults who want to hunt and fish. Conservation education and outdoor skills staff strive to help all Missourians enjoy the outdoors through safe and ethical, nature-based recreation.

## PRIVATE LAND SERVICES DIVISION

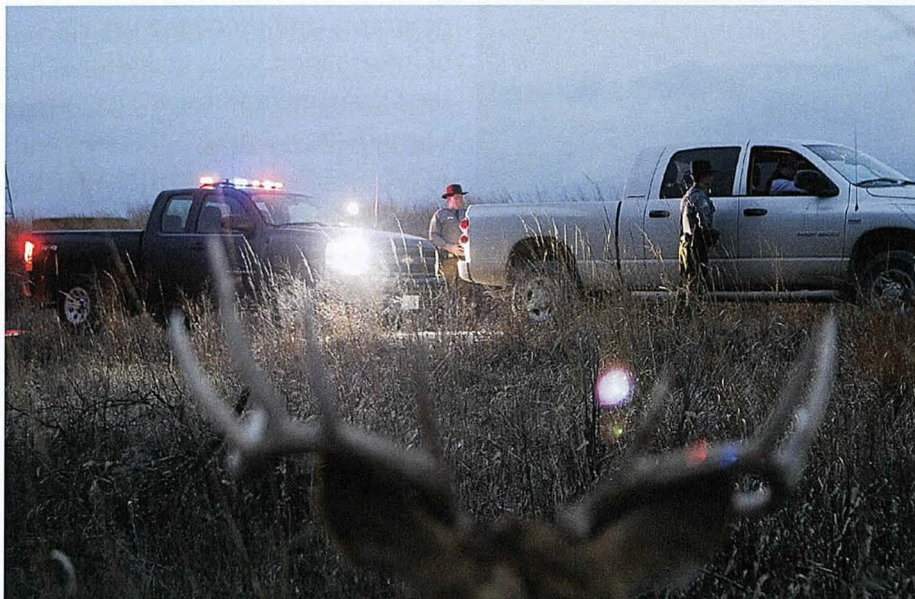
The Private Land Services Division helps Missouri landowners achieve their land use objectives in ways that enhance the conservation of Missouri's natural resources. Private Land Services staff promotes the sound management of forest, fish, wildlife, and natural community resources through voluntary participation, information, financial assistance, and partnerships. This includes assistance to landowners to evaluate natural resource and wildlife damage conditions, and recommendations of management and improvement techniques.

They establish partnerships with other state and federal agencies, commodity groups, agri-businesses, and conservation organizations to develop and achieve common natural resource goals. They strive to encourage a land management ethic among landowners, increase community involvement, build trust, and heighten understanding of the Department's mission.



## PROTECTION DIVISION

The Protection Division is responsible for enforcement of *The Wildlife Code of Missouri* and related statutes on both private and public lands as well as many other duties. Conservation agents are assigned



to each county in Missouri, and represent the Department in a wide variety of programs. Agents administer the hunter education program in their local area. Agents provide conservation information and education through newspaper articles, adult and youth meetings, exhibits, clinics, and radio/television programs. Protection Division personnel provide basic information and materials for forest, fish, and wildlife management to Missouri citizens, and are

involved in administering Department landowner assistance programs. In addition, conservation agents routinely make contacts with landowners who have wildlife depredation or nuisance problems, poaching or trespass problems, and a host of other needs. Protection Division cooperates with the Conservation Federation of Missouri in administering Operation Game Thief, Operation Forest Arson, and Share the Harvest programs.

## RESOURCE SCIENCE DIVISION

The Resource Science Division ensures integration of population dynamics, habitat relationships, and constituent desires into science-based management and policy for grassland, agricultural, forest, wetland, and aquatic systems. An emphasis on biometrics, GIS/GPS technologies, and database management is required for sound study design, comprehensive analysis, and confident reporting of research



and monitoring results. Science services in the form of diagnostics, genetics research, and water quality investigations provide specialized assistance for resource professionals as well as the Missouri public. Assisting resource managers with evaluation of their fish, wildlife, and habitat management efforts also is a priority for the Resource Science Division. Special emphasis on species and communities of concern through surveys, monitoring, and comprehensive databases is dedicated to protecting endangered species, wildlife diversity, and natural community conservation. Training of resource managers through specialized workshops provides skills in taxonomy, field sampling methods, and technical applications. The Division also provides technical support for establishing harvest regulations, conservation planning, and public information through popular and professional publications.



## WILDLIFE DIVISION

The Wildlife Division is responsible for actively managing habitats on public lands for Missouri citizens to enhance natural communities and improve habitats for plants and animals and Missouri citizens. Accomplishing this objective involves a wide range of programs and activities on public and private land. Administration of hunting programs on public lands and coordination with other agencies help ensure that wildlife and wildlife habitat receive full consideration in all land management

activities. The Wildlife Division also provides a number of special services designed to aid people in many aspects of wildlife conservation. These include management advice to individuals and groups interested in wild animals, assistance to alleviate wildlife damage, personal appearances as speakers on wildlife topics, and preparation of publications, reports, regional plans, and replies to inquiries.



# Staff Contacts

To learn more about conservation, see information about the Missouri Department of Conservation at [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov)

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West Plains

Northwest Regional Office 816-271-3100  
St. Joseph

Northeast Regional Office 660-785-2420  
Kirksville

Central Regional Office 573-884-6861  
Columbia

Kansas City Regional Office 816-655-6250  
Lee's Summit

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# Missouri—Committed to Conservation

Whether feeding birds or watching wildlife, hunting, canoeing and boating, target shooting, fishing, or spending time at a nature center, Missourians are tied to the outdoors. The many opportunities we have to participate in these and other activities within Missouri should not be taken for granted. The vision, passion, and commitment of Missouri's citizens for the forest, fish, and wildlife resources of Missouri have shaped the programs and experiences enjoyed today. The following information provides insight into Missouri's nationally recognized conservation program. Our state's conservation success is dependent on continued citizen participation and support.

## MISSOURI'S CITIZENS HAVE TAKEN UNIQUE AND PROACTIVE STEPS TO SUPPORT AND ENHANCE CONSERVATION EFFORTS.

- Created Conservation Commission through a 1936 constitutional amendment
- Constitutional mandate that guides activities as Department works to carry out mission of:
  - Protecting and managing the forest, fish, and wildlife resources.
  - Serving the public and facilitating its participation in resource management activities.
  - Providing opportunities for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about forest, fish, and wildlife resources.
- Passed one-eighth of one percent sales tax through the 1976 Design for Conservation

## CITIZENS HAVE CREATED A CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT THAT "PAYS ITS WAY."

- Department continues to—and must—live within its financial means because no dollars are received from state government general revenue.
- The Department operates on a budget that is only 0.7 percent of Missouri's total state budget.
- The one-eighth of one percent Conservation Sales Tax currently generates approximately \$100 million—funds that are earmarked and spent to make fish and wildlife abundant and forests sustainable. As a result:
  - Missourians value wildlife recreation, hunting, and fishing experiences.
  - there is a \$5.7 billion impact from fish and wildlife-related recreation expenditures annually.
  - there is an additional \$5.7 billion annual impact from forest-related economics.
  - fish, forest, and wildlife expenditures generate over \$439 million in state and local taxes (much more than the one-eighth of one percent sales tax generates).
- Forest, fish, and wildlife is big business in Missouri.
  - These resources support more than 99,000 Missouri jobs.
  - During tough economic times citizens continue to spend income on wildlife-related activities.



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